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Underground Soviet Blast Felt In U.S., Humphrey Discloses

Explosion in Ural Mountains March 25

Senator Consults Seismologists, Will

Announce Replies Later

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WASHINGTON, April 12.

A Soviet underground explosion last month was detected by seismographic stations up to 5000 miles away, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat, Minnesota, said today.

Humphrey, chairman of the Senate disarmament subcommittee, at the same time promised to make public additional information he expects to get about test detection through a questionnaire he has sent to 57 United States seismologists.

The Soviet underground explosion, fired March 25, was detected at College, Alaska; Hungry Horse, Mont.; Eureka, Nev.; Kiruna, Sweden; Uppsala, Sweden; and Shillong, India, Humphrey said.

Information from these stations, he said, made it possible to locate the explosion in the northern Ural mountains, 500 miles outside Pukinsk, Ural's capital. Nev. station is 200 miles from that point.

No Quake In 10 Years

Humphrey said the blast was in an area which has had no earthquakes for more than 10 years.

Humphrey's announcement was part of an effort to inform the public about some of the technical problems of disarmament. He has criticized the reluctance of officials of the executive branch to make public details on the reliability of nuclear devices. These details would help answer the question of whether the Russians would be able to ratify an agreement to stop nuclear tests.

Unfortunately, the studies conducted by the executive branch on this subject have not been completed, Humphrey said. It is therefore necessary for the subcommittee to conduct its own studies, he said, and make them available to the American people.

facts of inspection systems to verify a suspension of weapons tests.

Obtained From CIA

The committee obtained information on test detection from the Central Intelligence Agency, but this was taken in executive session. Efforts to arrange for publication of parts of the testimony of Herbert Scoville of the CIA who testified March 20, have been unsuccessful.

Another source of information is a task force on test detection under Dr. James B. Killian Jr., the President's special adviser for science and technology. President Eisenhower has said parts of that group's report might be made public. The subcommittee is understood not to have seen the Killian report yet.

In his letter to the seismologists, Humphrey told them one of the crucial issues in a proposal to suspend nuclear weapons tests is the "kind of inspection systems which would be necessary to assure that all parties were observing any suspension agreement."

"One of the purposes of questionnaire," he said, "is to determine, with respect to seismic stations which can distinguish between how close the seismic stations would need to be located in order to distinguish an earthquake from a nuclear explosion."

Points in Questionnaire

Humphrey's questionnaire included the following points:

1. Distances to which underground explosions of different sizes could be detected.

2. At what distance could

with how many seismic stations

a nuclear blast could be distinguished from an earthquake.

3. Number of stations

equivalent to 1.7 kiloton

explosion to occur in the Soviet Union and U.S.S.R. at

the number of given stations.

4. What is the size of the

underground nuclear explosion

detected by the American

Compass stations.